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[http://www.
americansamoa.
gov](http://www.americansamoa.gov)*

May is Mental Health Month in American Samoa

Governor Togiola Tulafono has proclaimed the month of May 2008 as Mental Health Month in American Samoa. The National Mental Health Association, along with the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare and their local partners observe Mental Health Month each May to raise awareness and understanding of mental illnesses.

The national theme of this year's campaign is: "Get Connected," and the campaign ribbon color is silver.

"I encourage all residents to join me in increasing awareness and understanding of mental health and treatment options available in our community for adults and children with mental health illnesses," Togiola said.

In his proclamation, the Governor wrote, "Healthy individuals and healthy communities are essential elements of any strong and vibrant society, and mental disorders and mental health problems affect people of all ages, backgrounds, and at all stages of life."

Togiola reminds everyone that mental health problems are real and common, but it is important to remember that recovery is possible with treatment, as individuals with mental health problems can lead full and productive lives.

The Governor said that caring for the mind and the body are good for overall health and are keys to success at home, at work, and at school. "Early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of mental health problems greatly increase the likelihood of restored health," he said.

Mental Health Awareness Month is an annual observance that was established more than 50 years ago to raise awareness of mental health and to promote mental wellness.

In American Samoa, the Department of Human and Social Services' Mental Health Prevention units, along with local affiliates Governor Togiola Tulafono, Malama TV, KSBS FM, Samoa News, the MOM Support Group, the Mental Health Advisory Council, the LBJ Mental Health Clinic, the Department of Public Safety, and the Office for the Protection and Advocacy of the Disabled have planned community activities to educate the public and promote healthy mental health practices in the territory throughout May.

During the month, the Pua Center in Nu'uuli, with the help of some local churches, will be soliciting donations from the community. Requested items include new or used clothing, and personal sized toiletries like soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotion, combs, and hairbrushes.

The donations will be handed out to the local homeless and those 'at risk' of becoming a part of the homeless population.

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Governor Togiola signs bill that establishes AS Visitor's Bureau

On April 25, 2008, Governor Togiola Tulafono signed into law a bill that establishes the American Samoa's Visitor's Bureau (ASVB) as a semi-autonomous agency of the American Samoa Government that will promote the territory as a tourist hotspot.

Togiola told the Fono that he believes the measure represents a more serious approach to tourism, which he said is a multi-million dollar industry that American Samoa can and should certainly take advantage of.

"With the proper mechanism in place, we can realize our full potential in a relatively short span of time," said the Governor. He added that the territory could not have picked a more appropriate time to launch its tourism development efforts, referring to ongoing preparations for hosting the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts set to be hosted locally later this year from July 20 – August 2.

(Continued on page 5)

Mental Health Month...(continued from page 1)

Those considered to be 'at risk' include people in an unstable living environment due to family conflicts, unstable income, unemployment, lack of social/family support, and those who are suffering from a serious mental illness.

The Pua Center's Prevention Unit is available all month long to conduct presentations on various mental health topics. Those interested in scheduling a presentation for their class, worksite, church, or social group may call Vaina Felaugaina at 699-5144 for more information.

The Pua Center encourages families to recognize and promote their children's mental health and overall development through increased communication, guidance, and emotional support, as research shows that children who feel warmth and care from their parents are more likely to be successful in school, be less anxious and depressed, and have higher self-esteem than those without.

A healthy mind is as important as a healthy body. Good mental health can help a person become effective in handling life's challenges, enhance their relationships, balance their mind, body, and spirit, and stay better connected to their families, friends, and community.

ASG RADIO PROGRAM With: Gov. Togiola Tulafono

On: Showers of Blessings FM 104.7
Saturdays @ 7a.m.- 9:00a.m. Call: 699-8123/8124

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On May 10, 1921, it was ordered that the *Codification of the Regulations and Orders for the Government of American Samoa* "shall take effect and come into force at 12 o'clock noon, by order of Captain Waldo Evans, Governor."

On May 10, 1942, SS *Bellatrix* and SS *Cauley* arrived in Apia with military supplies and equipment for the construction of an airport at Satapuala.

On May 10, 1997, American Samoa's first elected governor, Uifa'atali Peter Tali Coleman, was buried in Diamond Head Memorial Park, Hawai'i, following funeral services at St. Augustine's Church, Honolulu, which were attended by more than 700 people, including Governors Ben Cayetano of Hawai'i and Tauese P.F. Sunia of American Samoa.

On May 11, 1937, Mrs. Natalie Blauvelt Milne, wife of American Samoa's Governor, Captain MacGillivray Milne, appealed directly to First Lady (Anna) Eleanor Roosevelt for increased federal aid for public health projects. As proof that the Territory lacked a modern sanitary system, "Mrs. Milne enclosed in her letter a picture of a Samoan outhouse [*fale sami*] on stilts over the water. Nevertheless, Mrs. Milne was no more successful than her husband in getting aid for Samoa."

On May 11, 1966, one of Polynesian Airlines' two DC-3 aircraft disintegrated in the air with three crew members (General Manager Captain George Scott, Operations Manager Captain Jerry Stancil and co-pilot Alastair Gibbens) aboard during a routine training flight. "The New Zealand investigators found that the accident was most probably caused by a specially fitted air stair door blowing open, breaking loose, and crashing into the tail structure."

On May 12, 1922, Commander John Martin Poyer, American Samoa's 11th (and longest-serving) naval governor (March 1, 1915-June 10, 1919), died in Washington, D.C. and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

On May 12, 1932, Captain George Bertram Landenberger succeeded Captain Gatewood Sanders Lincoln, and took office as American Samoa's 21st naval governor (until April 10, 1934).

On May 13, 1899, a Joint Commission appointed by the three governing powers (Britain, Germany and the United States) arrived in Apia "to exercise supreme authority in the islands and prepare a strong and stable government for the future." The members were: Mr. Bartlett Tripp (United States: former Minister to Austria); Mr. C.N.E. Eliot (Britain: Second Secretary to the British Embassy to the United States), and Freiherr Speck von Sternberg (Germany: First Secretary of the German Embassy in Washington, D.C.).

On May 13, 1925 Lieutenant Commander C.D. Edgar, U.S.N., travelled to Swains Island and formally hoisted the American flag, sixty-nine years after Eli Hutchinson Jennings Sr. had raised it.

On May 13, 1942, "Promotions to privates first class of not exceeding twenty-five per cent of the total authorized strength of privates and privates first class [in the First Samoan Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve] was authorized."

ASCC Administration and Faculty Collaborate on Self-Study for WASC

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

The Self-Study Committee at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC), recently returned from a two-day retreat, during which they had their first opportunity to review in detail the first complete draft of the ASCC Self-Study Report, a document put together by approximately 45 of the College's faculty and staff, working as part of individual Standards Committees. Following the review by the Self-Study Committee, the report will go to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), who will make its own evaluation of the report prior to sending a team from its subsidiary the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) to American Samoa this coming October to conduct a comprehensive accreditation review of ASCC.

"Accredited colleges undergo comprehensive evaluations every six years," explained ASCC President Dr. Seth Galea'i, "and with our turn coming up in October, this makes the work currently underway by the Self Study Committee crucial to our preparations for the ACCJC visit." Dr. Galea'i serves as Co-Chair of the Self-Study Steering Committee, along with Dr. Kathleen Kolhoff-Belle, the College's Accreditation Liaison Officer. Other members of the committee include Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Irene Helsham, Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs Mikaele Etuale, Dean of Student Services Dr. Emilia Le'i, Teacher Education instructor Rosevonne Pato, Tavita Elisara of CNR/Land Grant, Samoan Studies Institute Director Okenaisa Fauolo, Chief Information Officer Grace Mareko, and Virginia Mailo-Filiga of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Advancement.

The Self-Study Report focuses on how ASCC has accomplished its goals in accordance with the four major WASC Standards, specifically Institutional Mission and Effectiveness; Student Learning Programs and Services; Resources; and Leadership and Governance. The ACCJC lists specific criteria for meeting each standard, and the Self-Study Report in turn evaluates how ASCC meets the criteria, and where necessary, outlines plans for improvement. For this report, the Self-Study Committee put special emphasis on how, in recent years, ASCC has utilized an ongoing Institutional Program Review and a focus on Student Learning Outcomes to improve teaching and learning at the College.

For ASCC, the Self-Study process started in April of 2007, when approximately 60 faculty and staff participated in a workshop by ACCJC Vice President Jack Pond, who outlined the process for compiling the report and explained the philosophical basis behind it. "Putting together this report gives everyone at this institution, from the administration to the faculty and students, an opportunity to evaluate your own strengths as well as areas where you need to meet challenges," Pond said at the time. "WASC expects the report to reflect the views of people at all levels of the institution, rather than the administration alone." Following the workshop, the College President, Vice President and Accreditation Liaison Officer named Standards Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs, and selected the initial faculty and staff participants for each standard. These Chairs and Co-Chairs in turn added additional members from among the faculty, staff and students of ASCC. Since last September, the Self-Study Committee has met at least once a month to review progress and report on the work of Standards Committees.

The Self-Study Committee will soon complete its revisions of the current draft of the report, and then send it to several groups for the next round of review. These reviewers will include the ASCC Curriculum Committee, the Board of Higher Education, and a group made up of Student Government Association members. The Self-Study Committee will review the final draft once more in early July, and in August they will send the final report to WASC/ACCJC and the members of Comprehensive Evaluation Team who will visit ASCC in October.

Virginia Mailo-Filiga of the Office of Institutional Advancement and Effectiveness says that working on the Self-Study Committee has given her an improved perspective on how ASCC functions as a whole. "As with any public institution of substantial size, sometimes the people working in one part of the College know their own area really well, but don't necessarily know how the whole system should operate. Working on the Self-Study Committee has helped me clarify the links between all the different aspects of what we do at ASCC. I also like the way the procedure specified by WASC gives a voice to colleagues from various parts of ASCC who we usually don't hear much from, and even to students. When WASC designed this process, I think they had the right idea."

10TH FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS COMING SOON...
PLEASE KEEP AMERICAN SAMOA CLEAN!
FA'AMAMA AMERIKA SAMOA!

Governor wants to forgive LBJ loan to pay Medicare

The LBJ Medical Center received a loan of \$5 million from the American Samoa Government five years ago and now, Governor Togiola Tulafono says he plans to submit to the Fono an Administration bill seeking to write-off or forgive the loan, in order to free up funds to pay the \$9 million the hospital owes to the Medicare Program.

The Governor revealed his intentions during his weekend radio program, in response to a caller who inquired about the Medicare debt and why it exists. Togiola explained that it had nothing to do with the misuse of federal funds, as rumored, - but instead, was an overpayment by Medicare to the LBJ hospital.

According to Togiola, LBJ must pay back what it owes to Medicare; otherwise, the local hospital will miss out on Medicare funding as well as other federal funding for the hospital.

The money needs to be paid, and there is just no other way around it, the Governor explained. He added that perhaps the most serious problem facing the hospital is the 12% interest rate which adds up to a large amount meaning, the debt needs to be paid off sooner than later. (The hospital has been making monthly payments of \$211K and as of last month, the total payments added up to a little over \$1.2 million using operating funds and money earmarked for contingent liabilities).

Meanwhile, the Governor has rejected a revenue measure submitted by the LBJ which proposes to increase the current excise tax from 5% to 10% in order to get additional money to pay the \$9-million-dollar debt.

Togiola rejected the proposal saying that such actions would become an added burden to local residents who are already trying to make ends meet as the cost of living continues to increase.

This isn't the first time a request has been made to forgive the LBJ loan. Last year, the LBJ board made the request, saying that LBJ was already struggling to meet certain financial obligations and there were no funds set aside to pay it off.

Earlier this year, another request was made after a government report revealed that the \$5 million remains a pending expense yet to be paid off by the hospital.

The loan was funded by the \$11.6 million left over from the Hurricane Val insurance settlement. The money was used to pay off numerous LBJ debts including the US FICA and Medicare taxes, pharmaceutical company payables, employee and employer contributions to the ASG Employees' Retirement Fund, utility payables, ASG withholding taxes, and other vendor payables incurred for essential operational services.

Governor yet to appoint new police commissioner

Governor Togiola Tulafono has accepted Department of Public Safety Commissioner Sotoa Savali's resignation. However, the name of a replacement is yet to be announced.

Sotoa submitted his resignation to Governor Togiola last month, not long after his brother and former ASG Treasurer Velega Savali announced his candidacy for Lt. Governor in the upcoming gubernatorial election set for November.

Sotoa's resignation goes into effect May 9, at which time deputy police commissioner Filifaatali Mike Fuiava will oversee the department until the Governor makes an official appointment, which is subject to approval from the Fono.

In an April 29 letter to Sotoa, Togiola wrote, "It is with great reluctance that I accept your resignation. I have always held you in high esteem and treasured your opinions among those of my most trusted advisors."

Togiola thanked Sotoa for his service not only as police commissioner but also as Secretary of Samoan Affairs, which lasted from mid 1997 to 2005, the year he was appointed and confirmed to head the Department of Public Safety.

Sotoa has extensive years of service to the American Samoa Government. Prior to joining the Executive Branch, Sotoa served in the Legislature as an advisor to the Senate President and the Speaker of the House from 1987-1997.

American Samoa Visitor's Bureau...*(continued from page 2)*

The Tourism Development Act of 2008 is the Administration's attempt to revive and jump-start the American Samoa economy, thereby paving the way to more financial independence and stability.

The ASVB, will be responsible for the creation of tourism policies and programs that will not only maximize the Territory's tourism earning potential, but will also be sensitive to cultural and environmental preservation. The Visitors Bureau would create sensitive tourism policies and regulate tourism and its impact to the Samoan culture and way of life, in order to increase the contribution of tourism to the economy and facilitate the development of a competitive and profitable tourism industry.

Under the new law, two people from the visitors association and one person from the Chamber of Commerce are to serve as representatives of these organizations as board members on the ASVB.

The three people whose names have been submitted to the Governor for his review are: Roy J.D. Hall Jr., (Chamber of Commerce), and Tom Drabble and Derick Webb (Pago Pago Visitors Association).

A fourth private sector member must be a person with at least five years experience in the cruise ship industry and is currently employed with, or owns a cruise ship agency service. This particular member may be someone who resides off island.

It is up to the Governor to decide who to appoint as representatives of the government to sit on the seven-member board. A total of three members are needed to fill this requirement - one representative each from the Department of Commerce, the Office of Samoan Affairs, and the National Park Service of American Samoa.

Under the new law, board members are not entitled to compensation, special benefits, or reimbursements.

Board members will be responsible for hiring an executive director, reviewing and deciding upon annual operating budgets, procurement and personnel actions, and accounting and financial management policies. In addition, the board is to hold regular meetings at least once a month, issue written advisories and recommendations, and advise the Governor on matters presented to them by the executive director.

Now that the measure has become law, the Governor is expected to set a timeline of when changes are made to transfer the functions, duties, and other assets that were once under the local Department of Commerce through the Tourism Office, to the newly formed ASVB.

The new law states that all tangible assets formerly listed under the Office of Tourism will be transferred to the ASVB, although all outstanding liabilities incurred by the Tourism Office, including contracts and statutory obligations, are to remain with the DOC.

The new law also states that the Governor is to provide the ASVB with funding, and all unused monies that were allocated to the Tourism Office at the time the office is dissolved are to be transferred to the ASVB. This however, does not include funds specifically designated for salaries for Tourism Office employees that will remain with the DOC.

Notary Act of 2007 signed into law by Governor Togiola

Legislation establishing the Notary Act of 2007 has been signed into law by Governor Togiola Tulafono.

The Governor informed the Fono leadership of his approval of the measure through a letter on May 1 saying that he believes a notary public is a professional who is vital in preserving the integrity of essential documents dealing with commercial and legal transactions, among other things.

The bill modernizes the Notary Public Office by establishing rules, procedures, guiding principals, defining duties and responsibilities, and provides for sanctions for notaries public in the territory to assure the integrity of documents essential in commercial and legal transactions.

"In the past, our laws provided very little guidance to our notaries," Togiola said. "Thankfully, with this piece of legislation, our notary laws are now up to par with the rest of the United States and the world."

SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES IN YOUR ASG NEWSLETTER

with your ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

Harry Stevens (harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov) or Tialuga Vince Iuli (vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov)

Public Notice

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) and the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) have amended the “Safe Drinking Water” regulations in Title 25 Chapter 4 of the American Samoa Administrative Code. These new rules become effective June 1, 2008, and are available for review at the AS-EPA office in Utulei.

The new “Safe Drinking Water” regulations include newly established fees for water testing performed by the AS-EPA Water Quality Laboratory. The fees are listed below as price per sample:

Microbiology

Total coliform / E. coli	\$ 38.00
Enterococci	\$ 38.00

Chemistry

Free residual chlorine	\$ 13.00
Ozone	\$ 13.00

Please contact AS-EPA at 633-2304 if you have any questions

Fa'asalalauga Fa'alaua'itele

Ua iai nei ni suiga fou i le tulafono mo le “Suavai Taumafa”, Ulutala 25, Mata'upu 4 i le Tusi Tulafono a le Malo o Amerika Samoa (ASC Title 2, Chapter 4). O nei suiga ile tulafono ua ta'ua na tu'ufa'atasia e le Ofisa O le Si'osi'omaga i Amerika Samoa (AS-EPA) ma le Komisi o le Si'osi'omaga (EQC), ma o le a amata ia Iuni 1, 2008. E mafai ona faitau i ia suiga i le ofisa o le AS-EPA i Utulei.

O suiga fou nei i tulafono o le “Suavai Taumafa” o lo'o fa'a'iloa ai le amatalia ona totogi le su'esu'eina o le suavai e le potu su'esu'e a le AS-EPA.

Su'eina o siama

Siama I otaota o manu ma tagata	\$38.00
Siama mai isi meaola	\$38.00

Kemisi

Su'eina o le kolorini	\$13.00
Su'eina o le osone	\$13.00

Fa'amolemole e fa'afeso'ota'i mai le AS-EPA i le 633-2304 mo ni fesili